

**There are approximately 2,000 Veterans awaiting transplant at a VA or Military Transplant Center in the U.S. There are countless more who are listed at private sector transplant centers.**

The average wait for a kidney from a deceased donor is 4.5 years.

*Veterans are dying while waiting for a kidney.*

We can help improve the length and quality of Veterans' lives by finding them living kidney donors.

We know the vast and tight network of Veterans and the goodwill of the larger community of Americans would "Step Up" as donors if they knew how.

## Message from DOVE Founder



Sharyn Kreitzer, DOVE founder and living kidney donor, with donor advocates and veterans raising awareness!

*"I am dedicated to giving back to those who served our country. Finding and matching living kidney donors with Veterans will save Veterans' lives as well as help the overall transplant community by elevating awareness about organ donation, getting people off the long wait list, and contributing to transplant chains. Together, as communities, we can and will make a huge difference."*



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[WWW.DOVETRANSPLANT.ORG](http://WWW.DOVETRANSPLANT.ORG)

[Combined Federal Campaign Charity](#)  
**#85662**

DOVE is a 501c3 organization founded by experienced and dedicated transplant professionals. DOVE seeks to improve access to living kidney transplantation for veterans by facilitating kidney donor campaigns and providing education, advocacy and support to all donors.

## Donor Outreach for Veterans, Corps

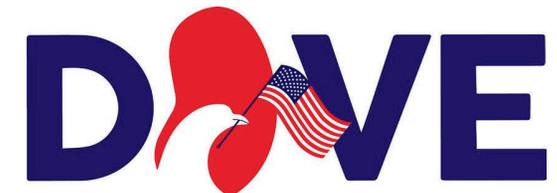
INCREASING ACCESS TO LIVING KIDNEY DONATION FOR VETERANS IN NEED



Margarite DiSpirito, kidney donor pictured with her recipient, Wil Serrano, USAF Veteran who served for 33 years.

**"I am so grateful to my donor Margarite for saving my life. I want to encourage Veterans to seek assistance to find a match. It is a true blessing for both the donor and recipient." - Wil**

**"I gave a piece of me that I didn't need to someone special who did. I now feel like I gained a brother." - Margarite**



LIVING KIDNEY DONATION FOR VETERANS

Combined Federal Campaign Charity #85662

## Through both individual and community outreach campaigns, DOVE will Find, Screen, Educate and then Match prospective donors to Veterans.

When possible, DOVE donors are encouraged to participate in national paired exchange programs.

Many patients awaiting transplant have prospective donors who are medically cleared but are incompatible. The more donors who participate in exchanges will result in many more transplants.

Donating a kidney can have a ripple effect and save more than one Veteran's life.

DOVE is a stand alone nonprofit organization and not affiliated with any individual transplant program.

## Who Can Be a Living Kidney Donor?

**Research confirms that donating a kidney does not have an adverse effect on future health of the donor in any way.**

All donors undergo extensive testing by a specialized, interdisciplinary Donor Transplant Team to ensure that donors can safely recover from elective surgery and live a normal life with their remaining kidney.

There are some conditions that can screen out a donor's candidacy through an initial health screening:

- Obesity (BMI >35)
- Under 18 or over 70 \*(some centers do not have age limit)
- Medical problems such as diabetes, uncontrolled high blood pressure, cancer, kidney and heart disease
- Psychological problems such as unstable mental illness, active substance abuse

**All testing and medical care is covered by the Veteran's insurance or the transplant center.**

Costs related to travel, lost wages, childcare can be covered via many different resources—including DOVE.

To learn more about kidney donation, please contact: [Info@dovetransplant.org](mailto:Info@dovetransplant.org) or [dovetransplant.org](http://dovetransplant.org)

## For Veteran Recipients

Many Veterans—who have already sacrificed so much for others—would be the first to offer to donate but are unwilling to ask in return.

Many transplant centers utilize "Donor Champion" programs and guide family and friends on how to run donor outreach campaigns.

DOVE is taking this successful concept a step further by serving as a Veteran's donor champion and also helping to screen, educate and guide the donors throughout the process.

This level of support keeps donors engaged and more likely to complete evaluation and undergo donation.

Pictured below, Lindsay Gutierrez, an altruistic kidney donor who first learned about DOVE in a Military Times advertisement.



If you are a recipient and would like to register with DOVE, you must:

- Be cleared and actively listed at a transplant center
- Be able to confirm your service history (DD214)

Please contact: [info@dovetransplant.org](mailto:info@dovetransplant.org)

**"I am proud to be the first DOVE donor and hope to inspire others to follow."**

Jon Taylor (Combat Vet/Medic), pictured at right, donated his kidney in October 2020 at St. David's Medical Center in Austin, Texas. This helped set up a chain of transplants that ultimately led to fellow Veteran, Chief Bennie, pictured at far right with his wife, undergoing transplant in April 2021 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

